

**REMARKS**

Applicant responds to the outstanding Office Action mailed January 13, 2005 with an amendment to claim 1 and the following remarks to more clearly distinguish over the Littlepage patent.

Applicant quite appreciatively acknowledges the entry of Applicant's Request for Reconsideration and withdrawal of prior grounds for rejecting the claims.

The Patent Office cites to Littlepage as anticipating claims 1, 3-6 and 8 and as rendering obvious claims 9-11. The Patent Office cites to Littlepage in view of Mayne as rendering the subject matter of claim 2 obvious. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections insofar as they may be applied against the amended claims.

Littlepage describes an unfolded mailbox construction that can retain a doll when folded and closed using a number of Velcro-bearing flaps. The unfolded construction of Littlepage has score lines which define the locations at which already-interconnected panels can be bent and secured into the mailbox configuration. The Velcro-bearing flaps of Littlepage provide the connectors that secure the already-interconnected panels into the mailbox configuration. The interconnected panels of Littlepage are useful only to define a single structure, namely, a mailbox, and not usable for constructing arbitrary structures.

The invention defined by claim 1 includes a plurality of discrete panels from which an arbitrary construction can be built. Each panel has a fold-away, Velcro-bearing flap that permits connection of one panel to a distinct, separate panel to define arbitrary constructions.

In contrast, Littlepage does not teach or suggest the connection of discrete panels to

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one another, and therefore does not meet the structural features of claim 1. Neither does Littlepage commend itself to the problem solved by the invention of claim 1 because it does not permit an arbitrary construction to be made from the plural, discrete panels. Rather, the Velcro-bearing flaps of Littlepage secure the interconnected panels into the illustrated "mailbox" shape, and are not taught or suggested for use as a soft construction toy in which a user can assemble arbitrary structures using the interconnected panels.

With respect to claim 2, the Patent Office relies upon Littlepage in view of Mayne to reject that further subject matter. Mayne, like Littlepage, does not have a fold-away flap that interconnects discrete panels.

Accordingly, claim 2 and the remaining dependent claims are submitted to define over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the all the rejections are respectfully requested.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.


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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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